

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 FBIE-00 USSS-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JZIOLKOWSKI:HE
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:APBURLEIGH
SY/CC/TAG:SSTAUFFER

-----010289 180040Z /73

O 180017Z AUG 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS KU

SUBJECT: REPORT OF KIDNAP THREAT AGAINST BANDER JABER
AL-SABAH, SON OF AMIR OF KUWAIT

1. SY NOTIFIED AT APPROX. 5:30 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME,
AUGUST 17, BY BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (BATF)
THAT BATF SOURCE HAD OVERHEARD SEVERAL PERSONS DISCUSSING
POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING OF SON OF KUWAITI AMIR, WHO IS UNI-
VERSITY STUDENT RESIDING IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON, D.C.
SOURCE SAID PERSONS WERE AWARE SHAIKH BANDER LIVED IN
NORTHWEST WASHINGTON, THAT HE FREQUENTED NIGHTCLUBS IN
GEORGETOWN WITH OTHER KUWAITI STUDENTS (INCLUDING OTHER
AL-SABAHS) AND THAT HE WOULD BE A GOOD TARGET FOR KID-
NAPPING WITH DEMAND FOR SIZEABLE RANSOM.

2. DEPARTMENT AND FBI WERE UNAWARE THAT AMIR'S SON WAS
IN WASHINGTON AREA. KUWAITI CHARGE CONFIRMED TO DEPART-
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MENT THAT SHAIKH BANDER RESIDES AT ELIZABETH APARTMENTS,
4601 NORTH PARK AVE., CHEVY CHASE (OFF UPPER WISCONSON
AVENUE). CHARGE SAID SHAIKH BANDER HAD RECENTLY GRADUATED
FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. SHAIKH BANDER EXPECTING HIS
BROTHER SHAIKH NAIF TO ARRIVE EVENING OF AUGUST 17 FROM
TEXAS. BOTH PLAN TO TRAVEL TO LONDON ON FRIDAY, AUGUST
18, AND THEN TO KUWAIT. BOTH HAVE RESERVATIONS ON AUG. 18

EVENING PANAM FLIGHT FROM DULLES BUT WILL PROBABLY CHANGE TO EARLIER FLIGHT IF POSSIBLE. WILL ADVISE DETAILS FOR FLIGHT TO LONDON WHEN AVAILABLE.

3. KUWAITI CHARGE HAS ALERTED SHAIKH BANDER TO GENERAL PROBLEM. SY HAS INFORMED FBI AND SECRET SERVICE OF SITUATION. SHAIKH BANDER AND SHAIKH NAIF WILL SPEND NIGHT OF AUG. 17 AT KUWAITI EMBASSY. SECRET SERVICE HAS ASSIGNED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO EMBASSY. DULLES AIRPORT SECURITY HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF ARRIVAL OF SHAIKH NAIF THIS EVENING AND WILL BE GIVEN DETAILS OF AUG. 18 DEPARTURE AS WELL.

4. BASED ON BATF INFORMATION, PRESENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT THREAT IS NOT REPEAT NOT SERIOUS.

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Message Attributes

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